

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT

The following information is submitted to provide current data on Greek Law concerning the disposition of remains:

A. MAXIMUM PERIOD BEFORE BURIAL

According to regulations of the Greek Decree of May 18, 1935, "Regarding Necroscopy," communicated by the Greek Health Center, Ministry of Hygiene:

(1) When the body is embalmed, burial should take place within (20) days, unless the embalmed body is stored in a zinc container.

(2) When the body is not embalmed, the minimum period before burial is twelve (12) hours. During the summer period, the maximum period is twenty (20) hours; (May-October), and thirty (30) hours during winter period (November-April).

B. EMBALMING

According to the above decree, bodies should be embalmed prior to incipience of decay, or within 48 hours after death. However, bodies may be temporarily preserved in refrigeration facilities, which are located at the University of Thessaloniki Medical School, for a maximum of ten (10) days prior to embalming. Bodies are embalmed at the morgue located at the University of Thessaloniki Medical School. In exceptional cases when shipment of remains is desired, bodies may be disinterred and embalmed after burial takes place. This procedure can be effected only with authorization from the District Attorney of the area and with the approval of the Coroner of Thessaloniki who must be present at the disinterment. The Coroner of Thessaloniki then issues the appropriate certificates that are required for the exportation of remains.

C. AUTOPSY

An autopsy is mandatory when a violent or sudden death occurs, or when the deceased was hospitalized less than 24 hours

Coroners employed by the Greek Ministry of Justice and universities are responsible for performing autopsies. Autopsies are authorized by District Attorneys and Police Authorities.

D. CREMATION

Religious and Greek civil laws do not permit cremation in Greece. Therefore, there are no cremation facilities in Greece. A small number of local funeral homes will take the body for cremation to neighboring Balkan countries, where cremation is permitted.

E. CASKETS AND CONTAINERS

When the remains of the deceased are to be transported from Greece, the remains are placed in a zinc casket that is hermetically sealed by soldering. Hermetically-sealed metal caskets, such as those used in the United States, are not manufactured in Greece. Although these caskets are now available in a few funeral homes, they are seldom used locally and command a higher price, (up to \$4,000.) Therefore, a simple metal container is usually prepared for local burial, and made airtight by soldering. Then the casket is enclosed in a hardwood coffin of approximately 30 mm thickness. For shipment by air, the wooden coffin is placed in a wooden shipping case.

F. EXPORTATION OF REMAINS

Local requirements for the exportation of human remains are as follows (as described in Articles 115, 116, 117 and 118 of the Royal Decree of February 21, 1940, regarding Health Regulations of Land and Sea):

1. Embalming of remains is required.
2. Enclosure of the remains as described in paragraph D above in the presence of a Customs House representative (required by Greek Customs and Foreign Exchange regulations.)
3. A permit must be issued by the Administration of Social Services, Ministry of Hygiene and Social Services, for transfer of remains.
4. A special permit for exporting the body is required, and is issued by the Customs House.
5. Death Certificate issued by the local Registrar's Office.
6. Certificate of Embalming issued by the Coroner.

G. COSTS

All dollar costs have been converted from the cost in local currency (EUROS) at the current rate of exchange of 0.75 (EURO TO DOLLAR).

NOTE: Grave costs taken from the main Thessaloniki Christian Orthodox cemetery called "Anastaseos tou Kyriou". In smaller cemeteries, and other cities or towns in Northern Greece, prices should be somewhat less.

1. Local interment without embalming in temporary (rented) grave:

CLASSES	EUR.	DOLS
A. FIRST CLASS		
Burial Expenses	940	1,253
Grave Cost	1,140	1,520
B. SECOND CLASS		
Burial Expenses	555	740
Grave Cost	755	1,007

2. Local interment without embalming in permanent grave (purchased family grave):

CLASSES	EUR.	DOLS
A. FIRST CLASS		
Burial Expenses	940	1,253
Grave Cost	35,000	46,667
B. SECOND CLASS		
Burial Expenses	555	740
Grave Cost	28,000	37,333

NOTE: If price of permanent grave is paid in one installment, there is a 10% discount. It can be paid in installments as follows: 40% in one installment, and then the balance of 60% in 6 installments.

The permit fee for the construction of a permanent grave costs EUROS 100 (\$133).

3. EMBALMING: EUROS 250 \$333

4. Preparation for shipment (including embalming; documentation; container; casket and coffin; delivery to airport and funeral home fee -- airport fee is separate):

EUROS 3,500 \$4,667

5. When death occurs in another city in the Thessaloniki consular district, remains may be transferred to Thessaloniki for preparation. Estimates of transportation costs between Thessaloniki and the major cities of Northern Greece (Thessaloniki consular district) are as follows:

The cost is approximately EURO 2,00 (\$2,67) per kilometer. Transportation costs are calculated on a return trip basis. To each of following amounts, EUROS 300 (\$400) should be added for funeral home expenses.

CITY	KLMS FROM THESS.	EUROS.	DOLS
Polygyros	72 X 2 = 144	288	384
Xanthi	219 X 2 = 438	876	1,168
Komotini	276 X 2 = 552	1,104	1,472
Alexandroupolis	341 X 2 = 682	1,364	1,819
Kavala	165 X 2 = 330	660	880
Serres	95 X 2 = 190	380	507
Drama	155 X 2 = 330	660	880
Kilkis	50 x 2 = 100	200	267
Veria	75 X 2 = 150	300	400
Edessa	89 X 2 = 178	356	475
Katerini	69 X 2 = 138	276	368
Grevena	188 X 2 = 376	752	1,003
Kozani	135 X 2 = 270	540	720
Kastoria	207 X 2 = 414	828	1,104
Florina	160 X 2 = 320	640	853
Larisa	160X2 = 320	640	853
Trikala	200X2 = 400	800	1,067
Karditsa	220X2 = 440	880	1,173

6. AIRFREIGHT

The average weight of casket and containers required to export remains is approximately 250 kilograms (500 pounds.) Listed below are prices for air freight shipment from Thessaloniki to various points in the continental United States:

FROM THESS. TO		EUROS	DOLS
New York	9X250=	2,250	3,000
Washington	10X250=	2,500	3,333
Chicago	10X250=	2,500	3,333
Dallas	11X250=	2,750	3,667
San Francisco	12X250=	3,000	4,000

7. TOTAL COST

Below are prices for preparation (including embalming) and freight of shipment of remains from Thessaloniki to U.S. cities:

THESSALONIKI TO	DOLLARS
New York	5,611
Washington	5,982
Chicago	6,100
Dallas	6,403
San Francisco	6,973

H. EXHUMATION AND SHIPMENT

In accordance with regulations contained in the Code of Municipal Cemeteries, Chapter C, "Exhumation of Bones," Article 15, paragraph A:

"The exhumation of bones of the deceased when buried in local cemeteries or in graves rented for three years, must take place within three years after the date of burial."

Article 4 of the above Code states:

"Regarding the three-year burial time limit, if, within three months of the expiration of the three-year period, relatives of the deceased have taken no action with respect to exhumation of the bones, the cemetery service, on its own initiative, may exhume the bones whenever they find it necessary, and will then store the bones in a charnel house

Extensions of exhumation of bones may be requested at the following rates:

TIME	CLASS	EUROS	DOLS
1 year	First	240	320
	Second	630	840
	Third	810	1,080
2 years	First	160	213.33
	Second	310	413.33
	Third	420	560.00
3 years	First	65	86.66
	Second	180	240.00
	Third	210	280.00

K Extension of the three-year period can only be authorized by the Mayor of the city.

- K If approved, you will pay an additional fee of 50% of the third year price, which is dependent on the category or class of interment.
- K The fee for use of a refrigerator is EURO 75 (\$100) per day and the hall they keep the dead is EUROS 55 (\$73) per day.
- K Exhumation costs are EUROS 55 (\$73) for placement of bones into the charnel house, and EUROS 100 (\$133) for placement of bones in a box and stored in the mortuary chapel.
- K For the first 3 years, the cost is EUROS 55 (\$73) per year. For subsequent years, the price rises to EUROS 100 (\$133) per year.
- K If exhumation is desired prior to the three-year prescribed period, you must still obtain the approval from the District Attorney of the area prior to beginning exhumation.
- K Those buried in (perpetual) family lots, are buried indefinitely, or until such time as another member of the family is to be placed in this grave.
- K Preparation of bones for shipment to the United States, not including airfreight, is approximately EUROS 2,100 (\$2,800). Airfreight is charged by kilo of weight, which is referenced in Paragraph 6.

